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SLOVENIA EASTERN WINE TOUR

7 days / 6 nights

Discovering Slovenian Eastern Wine Region and Vipava Valley

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit a home of the oldest wine in the world
- Experience the very best of Slovenian cuisine accompanied with exquisite Slovenian wine
- Walk along the oldest city in Slovenia
- Stay at one of the greenest, safest and the most honest city in the world
- Step into the mysterious world of Karst region
- Enjoy the beautiful vistas of Vipava valley

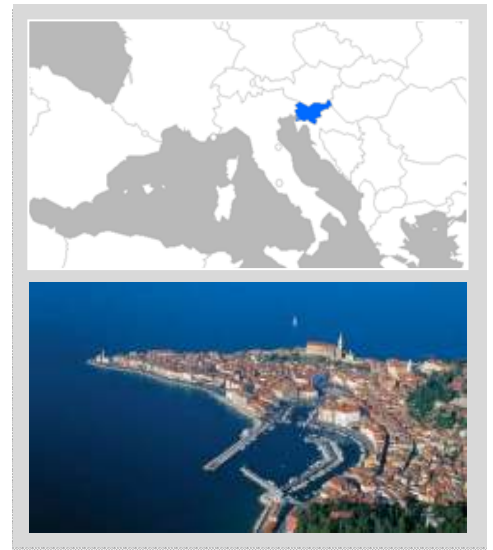


GENERAL INFORMATION

SLOVENIA

The country of Slovenia lies in the heart of the enlarged Europe. It has a border with Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. The capital Ljubljana is a modern, fresh, young, creative and surprising city.

Slovenia, a green and diverse country between the Alps and the Mediterranean, boasts all the beauties of the Old World. When you want to experience Europe in one stroke, come to Slovenia. In just 20,273 square kilometres there are snow-covered mountains, a sea coast bathing in the Mediterranean sun, beautiful karst caves and thermal springs, narrow white-water canyons and wide slow moving rivers, high mountain lakes and lakes that disappear mysteriously underground at the start of summer, ancient villages and medieval cities, the antique castles and modern entertainment, countless vineyards with top quality wines, and the only primeval forest in Europe. Here in this small and easily covered area, where hundreds of birds migrating south make a briefly stop and where dozens of unique indigenous plants find their home, more diverse experiences await you all year round than can be found anywhere else.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrival to Ljubljana Airport
Drive to Bakovci (190km) and check-in to a hotel
Free for lunch at a local restaurant
Free for spa in the hotel
Free for dinner
Overnight in Bakovci

STAJERSKA AND PREKMURJE - A land of vineyards, historic towns, spas and thermal resorts

The largest region of Slovenia is Stajerska, which is an area famous for vineyards, historic towns, spas and thermal resorts. Lent, the ancient part of Maribor, the main urban centre, is a charming medieval core with attractive riverside cafés and restaurants. The cobbled streets and small market squares of historic Ptuj encapsulate Slovenia at its best. The highlight of the year in Ptuj is Kurentovanje, where people gather from all over Slovenia to join the festival of spring. This part of Slovenia boasts numerous thermal spas and health resorts, as naturally heated water laden with minerals rises to the surface all over the region. The benefits of these waters have been known for centuries, and came to the notice of Napoleon and the various Austrian emperors who travelled there to take advantage of the healing properties.



DAY 2

Breakfast in the hotel
Drive to Ptuj (46km) for a visit
A wine tasting at Ptuj winery
Drive to Jeruzalem wine growing region (30km)
A wine tasting at Malek winery
Free for lunch at a local restaurant
Continue to village of Kog (17 km)
A wine tasting at Praprotnik-Curin winery
Return to the hotel (21 km)
Free for dinner
Overnight in Bakovci

PTUJ - treasure house of the millennium

Ptuj is the oldest town in Slovenia, full of interesting sights such as the uniquely beautiful 'Orpheus' monument in the centre of the town, a Roman tombstone that dates from 2nd century, and a wide range of medieval, baroque and renaissance architectural treasures. During your stay you also shouldn't forget to visit the glorious castle of Ptuj.

Its rich history reaches back to the Stone Age, but the city experienced its greatest flowering in the Roman period. The name originated in the times of Emperor Trajan, who granted the settlement city status and named it Colonia Ulpia Traiana Poetovio. In 69 A.D., Emperor Vespasian was elected in Ptuj, and the first written mention of the city of Ptuj is from the same year. Once a roman settlement Poetovio then contributed very well to its lively history and so had developed into an important cultural, administrative, economic, educational and traffic centre worth visiting at any time of the year.



PTUJ WINE CELLAR

Ptujska Klet's century old dream has finally come true! Their wines have become a brand name that sends a wealth of flavour into the embrace of the expectations of consumers on all continents. They've captured the exceptional potential of the fantastic vineyard sites of Haloze and Slovenske Gorice in bottles with a simple message: Pullus, a wine with flavour. Their excellent tradition, rich with winemaking history, can meet the satisfaction of consumer expectations.

MALEK VINEYARD COTTAGE

Jeruzalem wines used to ripen in many vineyard cottages on the hills, among others also in Malek. The former Malek house of lords, which stands by the road between Jeruzalem and Svetinje, was a typical rich vineyard owners' cottage in Slovenske gorice Hills in the past. In the building is an enormous press and below it, vaulted cellars. A special attraction of that renovated noble house, one of numerous such houses in the area, is the house's chapel. On 1st July 1948, the estate became general national property, it was given under the direction of the Administration of the State Properties Jeruzalem–Svetinje. Today the vineyard cottage has been managed and owned by the Jeruzalem Ormoz. In the pleasant ambience of the 400-year-old Malek vineyard cottages, guests can experience and taste the charm and elegance of the wines of the Jeruzalem Ormoz Wine Cellar.

PRAPROTNIK CURIN WINERY

This wine farm is situated at Kog, in Ljutomer – Ormoz hills. They have been producing wine for 40 years. With the arrival of the new century, they began to work on reducing the burden on vine and on higher quality of wine production. Their goal is to produce the best quality wines and remain recognizable by their production of Styrian classic wines from ripe grapes – dry, semi-sweet and sweet wines, such as Sauvignon, Yellow Muscat, Tramine, Pinot Noir, Riesling and Chardonnay. In their wine cellars they have one hundred thousand liters of wine.



DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel
Drive to Maribor for a walking tour around the city
Drive to Kungota and free for lunch
A wine tasting in Gaube winery (5km)
A wine tasting in Dveri Pax winery (11km)
Return to Bakovci (47 km)
Free for dinner
Overnight in Bakovci

MARIBOR – The Second Most Important centre in Slovenia

The Stajerska region capital, the second most important centre in Slovenia, invites you to discover its wine growing hills and green Pohorje. It is the foothills and the slopes of the Mariborsko Pohorje that are developing into the key tourist area. Extensive vineyards, which rise from the edge of town over the hills of Maribor, are interwoven with more than 50 kilometres of wine roads. Discovering Pohorje's primeval forest and pure waters offers an unforgettable experience for ramblers as well as lovers of horse riding and cycling. Stroll through the proud centre of north-eastern Slovenia, the university city of Maribor. Bearing witness to a flourishing history is the rich architecture of past centuries, which reflects in the frontages of the houses. Maribor is becoming a modern shopping place and one of the biggest tourist centres in the country. Along the Drava river, your stroll will take you past numerous cafés to the "Stara trta" grapevine in Lent, named as the oldest grapevine in the world in the Guinness Book of World Records. Treat yourself to refreshment and relaxation in restaurants and wine cellars or to some food for the soul in museums and art



galleries and at numerous cultural events. Or maybe relax your body and senses at the Habakuk Wellness and Spa Center or the Fontana Medical and Recreation Centre, possibilities in Maribor are endless.

GAUBE WINERY

The story of wine is the one that always writes new chapters. In 2008, the family Gaube began construction of a new wine cellar with 60 thousand litres of capacity, which currently exceeds their production on 8 hectares of vineyards. They produce Riesling, Kerner, Pinot Blanc, Sylvaner, Chardonnay, Muscatel, Sauvignon Blanc, young wine named Prvenec and Rose which is a combination of Pinot Noir, Zweigelta and Blue Frankinja. Beside their degustation they also offer their homemade goodies such as sliced salami, cheese and "gibanica" (a layered cake, originating in the region of Prekmurje, which contains poppy seeds, walnuts, apples, raisins, and cottage cheese fillings).

DVERI PAX WINERY

They grow their grapes in a nature-friendly manner. They pick the grapes by hand, gently separate them from the stalks, and then successfully combine our knowledge, experience and tradition with the most modern technology in wine production. Their wine is produced at the former Jarenina Castle, where the company also has its headquarters. The cellar offers a storage capacity of 300 thousand litres of wine, 50 thousand of which are stored in oak barrels. Lovers of their wine can also visit the Iron Gate vineyard manor house, built in the second half of the 15th century, where they have set up a wine shop, and the arch-shaped castle cellar. The Iron Gate manor house is situated on the Jeruzalem Wine Road and offers a wonderful view of the Jeruzalem Hills from the large castle courtyard. Dveri Pax winery produces Welschreising, yellow muscatel, Riesling, Traminer, Sauvignon, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and others.



DAY 4

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Kocbek pumpkin oil farm (17km) for a visit
Continue to Ljubljana (161km) and check-in to a hotel
Free for lunch
A walking tour around the city
Free for dinner
Overnight in Ljubljana

MILL KOCBEK

Mill Kocbek is located in the northeaster part of Slovenia, in Stara Gora, on the main road that leads to the direction of Gornja Radgona. Their oil is produced from selected and purified seeds of at least 98% purity, in natural process, without any additives. Their specialties are cold-pressed oils, especially cold-pressed pumpkin seed oil. They produce pumpkin seed oil (which contains a lot of vitamins and minerals that are very important for our organism), sunflower oil, walnut oil, dry sausage with pumpkin seeds, and chocolate "Passion" (with pumpkin seeds, fried onions, plums and others). Pumpkins are very healthy because in the small greenish seeds lies a lot of nutrients that are indispensable to human body because they give us energy and help to maintain our health.



LJUBLJANA - a charming mixture of styles of Central Europe

One of Europe's best-kept secrets, the ancient walled city of Ljubljana lies at the very heart of Slovenia and boasts a vibrant history that traces 3,000 years of Roman, Medieval, Baroque and Italian influences. A friendly and cosmopolitan city Ljubljana offers a broad selection of diversions that range from strolling the shimmering reaches of the Ljubljana River to exploring the formal gardens and fortified battlements of the city. There is also wandering the cobbled streets of the Old town and a bright café society to be enjoyed plus plenty of atmospheric bars, a broad range of regional restaurants and a host of cultural events.



DAY 5

Breakfast in the hotel
Drive to Postojna Caves (60km) for a visit
Continue to Stanjel (40km)
A short walk around Stanjel Castle and free for lunch at a local restaurant
A wine tasting at Sutor winery (15km)
A wine tasting at Guerila winery (12km)
Return to Ljubljana (85km)
Free for dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Ljubljana

MARVELLOUS POSTOJNA CAVES – the most visited caves in Europe

The Postojna cave system is the largest known cave system in Slovenia. A visit to a cave such as Postojna deserves full attention due to the diversity of shapes, expansive cave areas, stalactite and stalagmite formations and water characteristics. Admire its unique Karst underground world of beautiful formations of stalactites and stalagmites. You can also see an unusual and rare underground animal Proteus Anguinus - the so-called "human fish". A visit to Postojna cave is a special experience, as an electric train takes visitors to their hour and a half circle tour visit to the cave. From train station inside the cave guides accompany visitors as they walk amongst magnificent creations of nature.



STANJEL – Jewel of the Karst

The Romans turned the top of the hill into an ancient fort. In the middle Ages the village expanded over the hill, and later on the settlement was enclosed by defense walls to protect it against Turks invasions. However, the most dominant features of the village are the Castle and the Church of Saint Daniel, which make Stanjel so remarkable. While walking through the narrow streets, the houses built in stone are telling you the story of stonemasons, who portrayed their experience of the Karst through stone. The streets end up in small squares, which were once popular meeting places for the youth and elderly.



SUTOR WINERY

The farm fits in the architecture of Podraga village typical of Primorska: narrow streets, stone walls, small windows with frames, stones on the roofs. The cellars on the farm were built at the end of the 19th century. Podraga is one of the first villages in this area that cultivates the vine. Viticulture is in a balance there, the conditions are extreme. It is the first meeting of the Alps and the sea. A good wine grows in the vineyard, the cellar can only preserve it. The Sutor family works with sense, very traditionally and without unnecessary additives because they want for their wines to be honest and sincere. The varieties of wine they produce are: Chardonnay, Malvasia, Sauvignon and Merlot.



GUERRILLA WINERY

Guerilla's home is Planina (close to Ajdovscina), a village above the Vipava Valley, which with its 400-metre position above sea level flirts with the Karst. There, the vineyards of Guerilla, planted the way the family's ancestors use to plant them centuries ago, bathe in the burning Mediterranean sun. They express provocation and a constant fight for quality. They created two sets of wine varieties: wines with a rich varietal aroma (rosé, pinela, zelen, rebula), wine varieties maturing in oak barrels (roma, riserva, cuba), sparkling wines (castra, castra rosé), specialities (nika).



DAY 6

Breakfast in the hotel
Drive to Bled (35km)
Bled tour with a visit of Bled Castle and a ride with pletna boat to Bled Island
Free for lunch
Drive to Bohinj (15km) for a visit
Return to Ljubljana (71km)
Free for dinner
Overnight in Ljubljana

BLED – Alpine pearl of Slovenia

The picture-postcard of the Alpine town of Bled was once the preferred choice of the Austro Hungarian Empire's elite. Its many charms include a medieval castle, perched high on a rocky cliff, a scenic lake studded by a tiny wooded island, and the alpine splendour of the nearby Triglav National Park, a natural wonderland of glacial valleys, glittering peaks, Limestone canyons, ice-cold tarns, flowered meadows, Alpine forests, Pretty hamlets and cascading waterfalls. It is a tourist place, surrounded by the wreaths of the Julian Alps and Karavanke Mountains, placed in a dish shaped basin of a glacial lake, the warmest in Europe.

BOHINJ - one of the most beautiful places in the heart of the Julian Alps

The natural beauty of high mountains, green forests, beautiful mountain pastures and meadows, the cultural and historical monuments, also friendly villages and towns with their hotels, restaurants, inns, and private rooms guarantee visitors a pleasant stay in Bohinj.

It is an ideal starting point for day trips, for walks on the trails that run throughout the valley, and for mountaineering or climbing tours and offers ideal options and opportunities for rest and relaxation in all seasons. In winter the valley becomes a winter sports centre, while during the summer the most beautiful pearl of the valley, lake Bohinj, invites bathers, and with the Sava Bohinjka river, kayakers and fishermen as well.



DAY 7

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

SERVICES

SERVICES INCLUDED:

TRANSFERS:

Air conditioned vehicle through the whole tour with driver/guide including parking fees, pay tolls

ACCOMMODATION (in DBL or SGL room, breakfast included):

3 nights in 5* boutique hotel in Bakovci (1 based on HB and 2 on BB) and 3 nights in 4*sup boutique hotel in Ljubljana based on BB

GUIDES:

English speaking guide through the whole tour including meals and accommodation

ENTRANCE FEES:

Visits and tasting of 3-sorts of wine at Ptuj winery, Malek winery, Paprotni-Curin winery, Gaube winery, Dveri Pax winery, Guerila winery, Sutor winery, visit of Kocbek pumpkin oil farm, Ptuj castle, Stanjel, Postojna caves, Pletna boat ride to Bled island, St Mary's Church at Bled island, Bled castle.

OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

SERVICES EXCLUDED:

- Services not mentioned in the program
- Meals unless where specified
- Porterage
- Tips